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THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1912.

WILSON MEETS THE TEST.

In arguing that Woodrow Wilson deserves the full-throated approval of the nation, the test demanded by the times and the conditions of the political situation, and that in nominating him the Democratic party has done its duty, the Springfield (Mass.) Republican lays down some propositions well worthy of reproduction and dissemination, not only on account of their formal wording, but by reason of their infallibility. The Republican, be it known, is independent, with Republican leanings. It is more or less the political gospel not only of the Massachusetts Independents of Republican traditions, but of that element pretty much throughout New England.

It is to these largely that the old Richmond Whig and the old Richmond Enquirer were to the Whig and the Democratic parties of Virginia, respectively. On the one hand it guides and on the other it mirrors New England's independent thought and sentiment. Its opinions and its reasonings are therefore entitled to peculiar weight as evidencing how Woodrow Wilson is looming.

The Republican rises superior to all its past party inclinations, and all influences of traditions, in the present instance. In its support of Woodrow Wilson it rises to the height of the argument of a national duty. In accentuating, and amplifying its conclusion that in its Baltimore nomination the National Democracy conquered itself, our contemporary says: "Knowing its extraordinary opportunity, yet no less sensitive to its solemn responsibility, the Democratic party has triumphantly emerged from its fierce ordeal of conflicting ambitions and warring interests. It has given to the country its finest and sanest blend of leadership. It has rallied to the call of progress, and it has heeded the imperious summons to serve the republic. These sentiments, unequivocal affirmations embrace no less a truth than an unanswerable plea that the party deserves the fullest confidence of all who have the highest interests of the nation at heart.

After expressing the opinion that Woodrow Wilson stands at the focal point where the practical convergence of the radical and the conservative tendencies of the Democratic party is in the least possible, and having explained that for "conservative" is meant "wisely conservative," the Republican resumes:

"With the tide of political discontent among all classes running high, with an aggressive radicalism rampant in the great party and with revolutionary socialism in the background, and less valiantly at the established economic and social order, the Democratic standard bearer should be a man in incontestable sympathy with the progressive Democratic movement of the time."

Here the Republican rounds its keynote that "Woodrow Wilson meets the test" that the man and the occasion have met, and then swells the volume, the appeal, and the conviction carrying force thereof with this closing argument:

"The rule of the people with him in the White House would be safe. He embodies the aspirations of twentieth century Democracy along lines of stable development, and at the same time he possesses the mental equilibrium, the temperamental coolness and balance, the educated man's knowledge of world history and affairs and the appreciation of the wonderful complexity and delicate adjustment of the economic and social organism sufficient to check headstrong action and insure the propriety of reason over fanaticism."

What with such a tribute to the Democratic party and its nominee from such a source and from such a lofty plane of state of duty—and the Republican votes the views and the reasoning of many other independent papers of the country—verily, an old Father Time would have said, "The Democratic Union is bright and brightening."

A PRIMARY ON A HIGH PLANE.

The primary system at Virginia, as recently implemented, has been severely criticized, and has led to much misunderstanding of the business. Strictures upon the system and office-holders, because of both their private and public acts, are no longer muffled by the convention steam roller, for upon the platform such criticisms find ample outlet. Much hating of the sort which has so long been obtained in the nation, in the past decade was less known to the more dignified political meetings of earlier years, where national leaders were discussed in an informal way, and where personalities played a minor part. It was generally the old fashion to criticize the records or positions of candidates only incidentally, and to take them only as occasions for dilating upon the issues involved, rather than the individuals. The somewhat novel primary system has not made as much for dispassionate discussion of public issues as is desirable, and for that very reason has not rendered

the people as much informing service as it might.

The present congressional race in this district is a notable and commendable exception to such criticism. It is being conducted on an unusually high plane, measures and not men are being discussed. The net result of such a political policy will be the education of the electorate in the issues as to which they should be posted. From the mud-slinger little is learned, but such a campaign, as that which is proceeding in this district is distinctly one of political education. Both Captain Lamb and Mr. Montague are to be congratulated upon the honor which characterizes their race.

If a warfarer changed in at one of Representative Lamb's meetings it would appear to him that he was hearing a plain and instructive explanation of certain bills in the House and of Mr. Lamb's attitude on congressional matters. If another stranger heard Mr. Montague he would come to the conclusion that the speaker was delivering an informing discourse on certain political tendencies, certain desirable political reforms and the attitude which the people should take toward the public service. Of course, other things are discussed by the two candidates, but so far the personalities brought out have been negligible. Naturally, Representative Lamb has to deliver into the past because he is the incumbent, feeling that he must give an account of his stewardship to the people, while Mr. Montague deals almost wholly with present conditions and possible future solutions.

The Times-Dispatch believes that what the people want is the fullest possible discussion of the great constructive political issues of the day. Possessing neither the time nor the opportunity independently to become informed on the great public questions of vital moment to them, the people naturally look to their political leaders as well as to the press to post them and debate before them the political problems which so much concern the people of Virginia as any other. The Lamb-Montague campaign is instructive, and the policy of these candidates ought to be wisely imitated, to the better serving of the popular need.

THE BROAD STREET TANGLE.

The Times-Dispatch believes that the Broad Street paving middle calls for serious consideration and searching investigation on the part of the City Council. Richmond will not be satisfied with any but the best and most modern pavement on its main retail street. It does not want a paving that will be costly to maintain, dusty, or one that cannot be cut into for improvements without deterioration. If it takes until next spring to start the work, that time should be taken to get the proper material.

Richmond does not want its representatives again to place themselves in the embarrassing position of being under obligations to any company interested in city work. There must be no more junkets at the expense of outsiders. The City Engineer is put in charge of such work, and can give any technical advice that may be needed. If it is necessary to inspect the streets of other cities, let him be sent to make a report at the expense of the city.

Richmond also protests against the efforts of any other company to influence the choice of the material to be used on its streets. This is no question of influence of any kind. It is a question of choosing the material that meets the demands of the people and the engineering counsel of the city, and can be shown to be the cheapest form of surfacing in the long run.

If any of the city authorities are moved by a fear that the use of asphalt blocks may put the city in the power of a monopoly, it is to be remembered that there is plenty of competition in the wood block type of paving. This material meets all the requirements for a good paving. It is durable, practically dustless and noiseless, non-expensive, can be easily cut into for improvements and replaced without injury to the street. The extensive competition in this form of surfacing will insure the city a permanent freedom of choice and reasonable bids.

This matter should be settled, and settled in accord with the expressed wishes of the people and the opinion of the City Engineer. Neither the Street Committee nor any one else has offered adequate reasons for the use of bituminous paving. Convincing reasons have been given against its use. It is the function of the Council to see that Broad Street is properly paved.

FLUDGES THAT SHOULD NOT BIND.

Not the least of the evils that oppress our political system is that of fludging. Voters thoughtlessly and unwisely pledge themselves irrevocably to this or that candidate. Good government loses by such deals. Fludges are unnecessary and unwise, and no man should feel obliged to make them or to abide by them. If his better judgment dictates otherwise, it is a pledge must be made, it should be made after all the candidates are in the field and not before.

Suppose, a case. Smith, Green, Woods, Brown and Jones make early announcements of their candidacy for the Administrative Board, and Johnson, a voter, pledges himself to support those five men. After he had pledged himself, five better men, five more efficient men, come into the race. Why should Johnson, the voter, be stopped from voting for these five instead of those to whom he's pledged?

What consideration of morality or expediency is there to prevent him from declaring himself independent of the pledge in the circumstances? Who will contend that by abiding by his pledge, Johnson, the voter, better serves the common good, better fulfills his civic duty, better discharges his obligation to his country and to his kind?

No man's pledge ought to be binding until all the candidates are in the field. It is questionable whether a pledge is ever proper, but certainly it is improper, unfair and not binding when made before all the candidates are in the field. Service and duty to citizenship is that man who blindly pledges himself to any man before he knows who that man's competitor or competitors will be.

NOT ALL RAGTIME.

The people of Richmond are too grateful for the hand concerts as a means of relieving the strain and tedium of hot weather in town to be over-critical, but they do expect something more than programs entirely composed of popular ragtime and the ephemeral music of the day. Outdoor concerts offer no field for "high-brow" classical music, tone poems, or delicate symphonies. But they do afford an admirable opportunity for educating the popular audiences in the lighter forms of opera and music that is both interesting and inspiring.

Richmond has conclusively shown that it loves good music. Increased familiarity will mean a greater love. The children can be taught to appreciate the better kinds of band productions. They can be familiarized with foreign national airs, with fine waltzes, with inspiring marches, and with the best American composers have to give. The serious numbers will make an admirable contrast to the light numbers. But an undiluted offering of ragtime and comic opera songs will only result in a lowering of the general taste.

In this connection, it may be pointed out that Denver varies its musical programs with much fine music that is no strain upon even the least cultivated citizen. In concerts in that city the band renders selections from such composers as Massenet, Suppe, Gounod, Verdi, Bizet, Offenbach, and even the formidable Debussy. In Washington the Marine Band is equally cosmopolitan in its offerings. It is to be hoped that our program-makers will not neglect this admirable chance to make good music popular and make these concerts the beginnings of finer things.

THE GOVERNOR'S EXPLANATION.

Governor Mann's explanation of his message to the Richmond bar at its meeting to recommend a successor to Judge Grinnam of the Chancery Court, is clear and commendable. His motive was high and he acted in the interest of the public service. His action was dominated by good faith and good government; he had acquiesced in a precedent, "without giving the matter much consideration," but as a result of his course he felt that he had acted unwisely, and so his message to the bar was intended simply to put them on notice that he would not again place himself in the same position. The Governor very naturally disliked to bring up an unpleasant matter in his message, and his failure to do so caused much undue criticism of him. Governor Mann, for his attitude in this case, must have the approval of those who believe that the chief executive of the State, and he alone, should be responsible for the exercise of his prerogative.

EXPERT AGRICULTURAL NURSES.

The Kansas State Agricultural College has adopted an interesting innovation in its agricultural extension work. An agricultural expert has been sent to Leavenworth county to act as an adviser to the farmers for a period of two years. Only a small part of the expense arising from his appointment and residence in the county is to be borne locally.

The duties of this local expert, as summarized by the Kansas City Star, will be as follows: "While employed in the county the adviser will visit the farms and will test the soil so as to advise with the farmers what crop could best be raised on it. He will advise and give suggestions on dairying and horticulture and other features of the present day successful farmer. The adviser will also assist in all progressive movements of the farmers, such as good roads, better schools, and cooperation on crops. His help will be given in getting up corn contests. In arranging for exhibits as county and State fairs the adviser will give suggestions as to what to exhibit and how to grow better crops for exhibition purposes."

It is the opinion of the Kansas State Agricultural College faculty that the appointment of county expert advisers will result in the utilization of waste lands and in a pronounced increase in the yield from the acreage now under cultivation. The experiment should be carefully followed by those interested in Virginia's agricultural development, and if successful, might be given a trial in this State.

The worst part of summer is not the heat, but going home to an empty house with nobody to tell your troubles to.

One way of judging candidates for the Administrative Board is to find out whether they are good administrators.

On the Spur of the Moment.
By Roy K. Moulton.

Brendides.
"Say, Mag, are you the party who put a foot through three screen doors that I had stacked up out in the shed?"
"Oh, Mr. Jones, I called you up to ask if you could recommend a good washerwoman. The one I have had ruined all of my clothes."
"Where is that white vest I wore last summer, Angelina?"
"How do you expect your lawn mower to work, Rufus, when you leave it out in the back yard all winter?"
"I gotta get a new milkman."
"I just can't get no ambition to do nothing this kind of weather!"

Life's Little Troubles.

Being excused from the office on account of a severe headache and then meeting the boss at the ball game an hour later.
Taking long odds on a horse that finishes first and then discovering that you have lost your ticket.
Buying a new spring shape in millinery and finding upon your arrival home that your maid has got one just like it.
Having a friend strike you for \$5 just as you were about to ask him for \$10.
Getting a letter addressed in fine feminine handwriting and finding that it is only a bill from your plumber.

Popularity.

The automobile salesman hover 'round by the score.
And every day I find a touring car before my door.
I get a ride or two each day, and sometimes three or four.
I don't think I was ever quite so popular before.
The secret of it is explained, you see, as this way:
My neighbor told a friend of his that he had heard me say:
That possibly, if some one dies and leaves me rich, I may, perchance, consider buying a runabout some day.

Say Not So.

Tell me not in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream,
That those touted garden seeds are
Not exactly what they seem.
Tell me not that I will labor
With the spade and hoe and rake,
Till I'm lame and sore and weary,
To plant seeds that will not "take."

Not Servile, But Asleep

(Reprinted by request from The Times-Dispatch of July 17.)

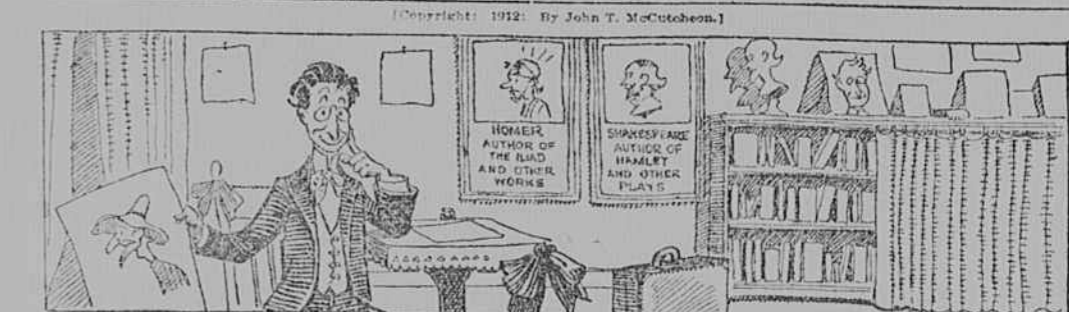
"Virginia, in spite of its splendid traditions, is to-day, in its submissiveness to a machine, one of the most servile of the States of the Union." This is the editorial comment of Mark Sullivan in Collier's Weekly, in his discussion of the appearance of Thomas P. Ryan as a Virginia delegate at Baltimore. This statement is not true. Virginia is not servile, but Virginia is asleep.

Virginia does submit to being governed by a machine that fails to represent her people. She does permit men to make of her public service a means of individual aggrandizement, of continuance in fat places, of putting personal friendship above the common good. In blind devotion to the principle of party regularity, her citizens have neglected perpetrating a crime against the State. These men have departed from her ancient traditions; they have failed to voice the needs of the common people; they have retarded progress; they have set an embargo on big leadership; they have opposed the use of individual initiative; they have blighted initiative; they have perpetuated obsolete and extravagant ways of conducting public business; they have failed to measure up to the responsibilities which Virginia entrusted them. Virginia has been indifferent, but she is not, in Mr. Sullivan's sense, servile.

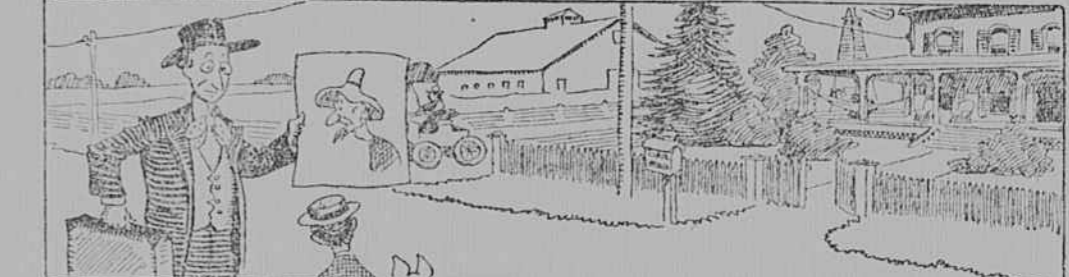
She is indifferent to the charge that she, who once led American Commonwealths in the wisdom and goodness of her statesmanship, now lags behind in her progress. She is indifferent to the charge that she, who once led American Commonwealths in the wisdom and goodness of her statesmanship, now lags behind in her progress. She is indifferent to the charge that she, who once led American Commonwealths in the wisdom and goodness of her statesmanship, now lags behind in her progress.

History disproves idle talk of a servile Virginia. Interventions in the life of her people are the finest characters and the loftiest ideals. Her people are sound, honest, democratic, wisely progressive. The foundation of her faith remains unshaken. If The Times-Dispatch did not believe this it would not feel so deeply the failure of Virginia to express her true self. But we do believe that Virginia is still bent on high things, she will take her place in helping to mold government into an instrument for serving all the people. The machine will be destroyed, because it is out of touch with Virginia ideals and does not answer modern needs. Virginia is not servile, she is asleep, but she is waking, she is waking to the duty of a new day.

THE FARMER OF FICTION AND REALITY.
By John T. McCutcheon.



The Popular Novelist—"Now I'm going to write a great novel on American farm life and I think I'll go out and find the real type—the kind with chin whiskers who says: 'E' reth, I'll jest euen to Guiney.'"



"Say, Bub, I'm looking for a typical farmer like this. Do you know of any farmers around here?"
"My Pa's a farmer, but he's gone over to town to get a new tire for his auto. You might ask Ma, over there. She's reading about the yacht races."



"Great Scott! Is this the farmer of today? I haven't heard any of them say 'E' reth, I'll jest euen to Guiney,' and none of them looks like the jay pictures."



"Won't you stay for supper and drive over to the Chautauque meeting afterward?"
"No, thank you; I'm going back to town."

MERCHANTS MEET AT ALEXANDRIA

Annual Session of Retail Association Welcomed by Mayor.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Alexandria, Va., July 17.—With addresses of welcome by Mayor Frederick J. Pitt and Leopold Ruben, local president of the Retail Merchants' Association, the ninth annual convention of the Association of Retail Merchants of the State of Virginia was called to order at noon in the new building of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Prior to the delivery of the addresses of welcome the meeting was called to order by Mr. Ruben, and an invocation was pronounced by Rev. W. F. Watson, pastor of the First Baptist Church.

It was 2:30 o'clock when the Richmond delegation arrived. President Samuel Cohen, of Richmond, and Secretary W. A. Clarke, of Richmond, assumed their offices.
The reports of the various officers were then made as well as the report of the legislative committee and the delegate to the national association.

President Cohen's report showed that during the past year twenty-three associations had been formed, bringing the total of thirty-eight in the State and the organization was in a very healthy condition.
Only one financial balance on hand was shown by the treasurer's report, owing to large expenses during the year.

According to the report of the legislative committee, there has been considerable activity before the State Legislature in behalf of the association.
Members of the association went to the plant of the Robert Porter Brewing Company at 4 o'clock this afternoon, where they were tendered a luncheon. The affair was in charge of P. Von de Wastelaken, an employee of the plant.

At 7 o'clock to-night the delegates and their friends went by steamer to Marshall Hall, where they enjoyed a dinner by the local association. The convention will conclude its business late tomorrow afternoon with the election of officers and the adjournment of a city for the next convention.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Cape Charles, Va., July 17.—A near-panic was created at the William Todd vaudeville show, which is playing here under canvas, last night, when a tent adjoining the show caught fire from the explosion of a gasoline tank and was soon enveloped in flames. The audience was not aware of the accident until a boy in the crowd shouted "fire."
The big tent was filled with men, women and children and when the yell of fire was made there was a general rush for the exit, while the screams of the women and children filled the air. Seats were knocked over and some of the spectators went out underneath the tent. One woman with a small child attempted to leap from the top of the canvas, but was prevented from doing so by cooler heads. Repl-

NATIONAL STATE AND CITY BANK
RICHMOND, VA.
3% ON SAVINGS 3%
Elements of Security
Capital and Surplus of \$1,600,000.00, able management, thorough organization, long experience and financial responsibility are the elements comprising the security offered by this bank. Moreover, its complete equipment and extensive resources enable it to assist depositors in any legitimate way in the building up of their business interests.
UNDER BOTH U.S. GOVT. & STATE SUPERVISION.